

# Introducing the Capitol Hill Monitor *THE* Washington Area Scanner Club

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## ATTENTION SCANNER LISTENERS...

Washington area scanner enthusiasts, for years, dreamed of the possibility of someday starting a formal organization - just for local scanner listeners, like us. Wouldn't it be great to get together on a regular basis with other individuals who share our interest in the hobby and exchange notes and ideas? This was the topic of discussion during a recent planning session sponsored by longtime scanner buff and telephone specialist, Mike Peyton. If you missed Mike's recent meeting at the Kensington Library, don't worry. You'll have the perfect opportunity in a couple weeks to share your thoughts and ideas concerning the formation of a formal area scanner organization.

In other metro areas, local chapters of the Radio Communications Monitoring Association (RCMA) provide a perfect forum for scanner listeners to meet others and share thoughts on the hobby. Considering the enthusiasm, knowledge and talent present in the scanner hobbyists of the metro area - a formal

Washington area organization is long overdue. Many of us present at Mike's Kensington meeting consider a local newsletter and regular scanner gatherings of great need in the metropolitan area.

Would you like to receive a reasonably priced newsletter, similar to this one, and socialize with other scanner buffs every month or so? Mark your calendars, because we want to give it a try. Mike Peyton, Ken Fowler and I (Alan Henney) anxiously await your presence and input at one of our local meetings scheduled during the next few months. The first few meetings will concentrate, at least to some extent, on the structure of our organization. Once we consolidate our thoughts, we'll have more time to socialize - hopefully once every month or so.

The December started the ball rolling, and hopefully the following organizational meetings will set the foundation of an enjoyable club for all.

Please bring your thoughts and ideas and join us at one (or hopefully more) of the following gatherings.

## MEETING DATES FOR THE CAPITOL HILL MONITORS

When	Activity	Where	Contact
Sat, Jan 11 1 - 3 pm 3 - 5 pm	organizational meeting * general scanner meeting	Woodrow Wilson Library 6101 Knollwood Dr. Falls Church, VA	Ken 703-385-2165
Sat, Feb 8 1 - 3 pm 3 - 5 pm	organizational meeting * general scanner meeting	Kensington Park Library 4201 Knowles Av. Kensington, MD	Mike h 301-933-2273 w 703-749-7381
Sat, Mar 14 1 to 4 pm	Speakers to include: Fairfax Co Fire Inspector Children's Hosp. EOC Super. Frequency Forum BBS Sysop	Fairfax Co EOC/PSCC 3911 Woodburn Rd Annandale, VA	Ken 703-385-2165
April	Special meeting	WUSA-TV (ch 9)	details in next issue
Sat, May 16 1 to 4 pm		Hyattsville Library 6530 Adelphi Rd Hyattsville, MD	Alan 301-270-2531

\* organizational meetings are to discuss such issues as: meeting places and times, newsletter subscription rates, possible name change (bring your ideas!), general administrative procedures, as well as determining the general direction of the club. **Come and be involved in YOUR scanner club, all are welcomed!**



## ATTENTION COMPUTER USERS

**Try the Frequency Forum Computer Bulletin Board,  
703-207-9622 For Free (Up to 40 Minutes Per Day)**

If you have a PC, now you can exchange E-mail with some of the area's most active scanner buffs on the Frequency Forum computer bulletin board system. The Frequency Forum BBS, established by Jack Anderson (no relation), features discussions on scanners, frequencies of interest and much more.

Version 17.3A of the sophisticated "RBBS" software makes logging onto the BBS a simple procedure. Using the common BBS parameters of 8-N-1, anyone with a 1200 or 2400 baud modem may log onto the board for up to 40 minutes per day. For a modest contribution of \$10 or more, to help Jack defray operating expenses, you will receive access for as much as 120 minutes per day for a year.

In addition to the local "main" discussion conference, Frequency Forum features RF-Net - a network which exchanges messages (E-mail) with numerous other BBSs across the country that cater to similar interests in radio. Besides E-mail, numerous text files of frequencies, as well as many utilities, are "downloadable" from the Frequency Forum's hard drive.

Give Frequency Forum a try right away. Local BBS expert and scanner enthusiast, Ken Fowler, can answer any questions you might have. Many thanks go to Jack and Ken for their continued dedication to our hobby.

## BUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE!

In every newsletter issue, we can provide details on topics of special interest to local area scanner listeners. At the same time, we'll keep readers posted as to the current meeting schedule. As an example of what this newsletter can provide on a regular basis, I have prepared the following profile of executive protection frequencies active in the metropolitan area.

### MARYLAND STATE POLICE EXECUTIVE PROTECTION UNIT EXCLUSIVE REPORT!

Scanner enthusiasts nowadays spend a good amount of time listening to radio frequencies used by Secret Service and State Department agents who provide protection to both domestic and foreign dignitaries. Many of us forget, or don't even realize, that state and

municipal governments often operate their own radio systems - sometimes totally dedicated to such protection activities.

In Maryland, the Maryland State Police Executive Protection Unit not only provides protection for Governor William Donald Schaefer, but also protection for foreign officials. Lew Frith, an avid Baltimore area scanner listener, says he heard lots of activity on 453.75 MHz during the recent visit of the Israel prime minister to Baltimore.

When Hughes was Governor of Maryland, he was criticized for owning a summer cottage in Bethany Beach, Delaware. For several years the Maryland State Police held a license (WNLB240) on 453.35 MHz in Bethany Beach which puzzled many Police Call readers. From what I hear, Schaefer has a beach house in Ocean City, and this explains the 453.35 MHz repeaters (with the identical WNLB240 call sign) licensed in Ocean City and Berlin.

The system gets even more interesting. The Maryland State Police apparently use three different repeater frequencies to cover the Annapolis, Baltimore and Washington, DC metropolitan areas. In addition, MSP has authorized for its use, temporary repeater and base stations on the three frequencies (listed below) for use any where in the state.

#### *Annapolis, Berlin and Ocean City*

453.350 [118.8] WRB476 Annapolis

453.350 [118.8] WNLB240 Berlin & Ocean City

#### *Washington Area (Site Located at the MSP College Park Barrack)*

453.725 [118.8] WRB476 College Park

#### *Baltimore Area*

453.750 [118.8] WRB476 Baltimore

The repeaters used by the MSP Executive Protection Unit are "must listen" frequencies - especially for those who have a CTCSS capable receiver. Unfortunately the frequencies used by the unit are also allocated to numerous other users throughout the state.

The Baltimore City Police operate on 453.35 and 453.725 MHz (WNVP706) using a CTCSS frequency of 114.8 Hz. In Southern Maryland, the Charles County Public Facilities Department uses 453.725 MHz (KXE563) with a CTCSS frequency of 110.9 Hz. The District of Columbia Public Works (151.4 Hz) and Wicomico County (WNPZ400) each have repeaters on 453.75 MHz. The City of Oakland, in the Western Panhandle, holds a license for 453.725 MHz as well.



## METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE PROTECTION UNIT

In the District of Columbia we find a different situation with regard to VIP protection. Of course, officers from MPD's Special Operations Division assist Secret Service and State Department agents using the SOD repeater (460.275 MHz) and its accompanying simplex channel, D11 (465.0 MHz).

But on the local level, officers from the MPD Mayor's Protection Detail, known for their informal conversations, frequent the MPD Command Channel (460.425 MHz). In addition to the Command Channel, officers assigned to the Mayor's Detail often use one of the unlicensed MPD surveillance frequencies, commonly known as "D" channels, for their informal conversations.

Unlike the Command Channel, the surveillance channels are low power simplex frequencies, intended for short range communication. Should you find yourself within a short distance of the Mayor, and 460.425 MHz isn't active, try listening for the bodyguards on one of the surveillance frequencies: 458.2, 458.35, 458.375, 458.425, 458.475, 458.7, 458.725, 458.775, 458.85 and 465.0 MHz. By the way, all MPD CTCSS tones are 127.3 Hz.

Officers on the Mayor's Protection Detail seldom use unit numbers, and generally refer to each other by name. "DC1" of course is the Mayor. The night Mayor Marion Barry got busted, his bodyguards operated off of one of the surveillance channels. From what I hear, the conversations heard that evening were pretty juicy! So the next time you're downtown, make sure you give these frequencies a try. Between vice stake-outs and the Mayor's Detail, you never know what you might hear!

## VIRGINIA STATE POLICE EXECUTIVE PROTECTION UNIT

Unfortunately I rarely make it over to the other side of the river. However, Allen Cole, musician, poet and mall specialist, brings our attention to a frequency used by the VSP's Executive Protection Unit. Allen lists 154.68 MHz (with a CTCSS of 167.9 Hz) as the frequency used by the Virginia State Police's Executive Protection Unit. The FCC database shows a temporary base license (WRA534) and a statewide mobile license (KA5367) held by VSP on this frequency.

## DELAWARE - WHAT KIND OF PROTECTION DOES THE GOVERNOR HAVE?

In Delaware, I had the opportunity to watch the Governor give an outdoor presentation a few months ago. I'm sad to say I noted no radio equipment in use by his entourage. With the exception of some guy with a T-shirt who drove his Lincoln Towncar, the Governor had no apparent bodyguards.

I got close enough to his Lincoln Towncar (Delaware registration 15748) to observe only two antennas - both 800 MHz. A closer inspection of one of the 800 MHz antennas indicated that it could be a disguised cellular antenna, similar to those found on the DSP undercover vehicles. I highly suspect the state police equipped his Towncar with a standard DSP radio in addition to the cellular telephone.

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Hope to meet you in person!

Best wishes for a Happy New Year from the editorial staff of The Capitol Hill Monitor ...

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Both are active on the Frequency Forum BBS.

Comments, suggestions, hot tips, and articles are appreciated and encouraged. The BBS is the preferred way to submit input, but hardcopy (that's written notes to the rest of us) and phone calls are just as welcomed.



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*Announcing the:*

**Capitol Hill Monitors Club and Newsletter !  
The Washington area scanner club**

**NEXT MEETING Sat, JAN 11, details inside**

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